

# What Northern California representatives are saying about impeachment effort

## DON CLAUSEN — SANTA ROSA

As you know, the Speaker of the House has now directed the House Judiciary Committee to investigate the matter of impeachment and inform the House of their determination as to its constitutional merit. This is the proper and established procedure for the Legislative Branch to take at this time. I am in full accord that the Congress should now consider the question of impeachment and move with dispatch to determine whether or not sufficient provable grounds exist to put the question to a vote.

## HAROLD JOHNSON — ROSEVILLE

As you can see from the enclosed report, a preliminary investigation, which I supported, has been launched by the House of Representatives' Committee on the Judiciary. This investigation must be thorough, but completed promptly so that the facts may be placed before the public and the Congress for a decision. This decision must be made soon so that stability and honesty may be returned to our government.

## JOHN MOSS — SACRAMENTO

In addition to the issue of the White House tapes, I personally feel there are more than sufficient grounds for impeachment and that proceedings now underway should continue with all speed consistent with responsible action and due process.

## ROBERT LEGGETT — VALLEJO

It is my finding that we already have sufficient evidence for impeachment, even if there were no further testimony or investigation. Mr. Nixon himself has already *confessed* to the willful commission of at least two high crimes and one high misdemeanor, as defined by the U.S. Criminal Statutes, any of which require his impeachment, conviction and removal from office. It is not a matter of whether John Dean told the truth, or of what may or may not be found on tapes which may

or may not have been altered. We have all the facts we need from the statement of Mr. Nixon himself, undenied and still operative.

## PHILLIP BURTON — SAN FRANCISCO

I have sponsored a resolution calling for the impeachment of President Nixon and I have issued the following statement:

“Nixon should resign...and if he fails to do so, the best interests of the country dictate that he should be impeached.”

## RONALD DELLUMS — OAKLAND

For these and many other reasons, I support the impeachment of the President, who should be given a chance to clear himself of the many serious charges brought against him. We cannot get on with the real problems as long as we have a leader who evidently has so much to hide he cannot avoid forcing crisis after crisis on the nation.

## PETER STARK — ALAMEDA

I applaud the ACLU's continuing efforts to see justice meted out to the Chief Executive. He deserves no less.

As you no doubt know, I introduced a resolution of impeachment on November 14, 1973, in addition to signing numerous other bills directing an impeachment investigation. As the new session commences, be assured that I will work towards expeditious hearings and a swift vote on the matter.

## DON EDWARDS — SAN JOSE

Last of all, I must caution you not to expect immediate and sensational revelations from the Judiciary Committee. The Committee's job is similar to that of a district attorney who conducts an investigation of suspected crimes and who may or may not go to the local grand jury to request an indictment. Much of our work must be secret because we are not a court of law where safeguards of due process and rules of evidence protect the innocent.

ACLU NEWS

2/74

ACLU N. CALIF

# Petitions sent to Capitol

The second shipment of petitions were sent to the House Judiciary Committee last month asking Congress to impeach Richard Nixon. Since November 21, when the ACLU-NC forwarded 1,984 petitions with 24,700 names to the Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter Rodino, Jr., 1,837 petitions with over 25,000 signatures have been turned in by impeachment volunteers.

Impeachment coordinators Rita Friedman and John Maybury sent the 25 pound carton of names to Washington, urging Rodino and the other Represen-

tatives on the Judiciary Committee to "weigh the wishes of a significant number of Northern Californians who are concerned with justice." They stressed that "neither our efforts, nor the sentiment of the people who support us, are vengeful, but rather an earnest plea for fact-finding and action.

"Our nation is sick with uncertainty and turmoil, but it is within the Judiciary Committee's power to start the machinery of impeachment — the machinery of justice."

## LEO RYAN — SAN MATEO

Therefore, I have finally and reluctantly come to the conclusion that impeachment proceedings should be initiated against the President of the United States. I understand the gravity of advocating such actions, but I believe that our system of government cannot survive unless such action is taken.

## BURT TALCOTT — SALINAS

I am appalled that this tragic episode in our history happened and I wish that it had been exposed, and disposed of, last fall. I am especially concerned I believe the

proper, legal and fair course would be to await the findings of the "special prosecutor," the Grand Juries, the courts, the several Senate Committees, the possible House Committees, and various other investigative agencies which are now busily engaged in a comprehensive investigation.

## JEROME WALDIE — MARTINEZ

By his actions, the President is tearing the Nation apart, and he must be removed from office. It is now up to the Congress and the people to uphold the principle that ours is a Government of laws, not of men.

